

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ADUBS:LB
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY
P - MR. HABIB
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 158584

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, US, PK, FR, BR, JA, ENRG

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PURCHASE

REFERENCES: (A) TEHRAN 5872, (B) ISLAMABAD 6942 (NOTAL)

1. THE AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO HAVE FOLLOWING POINTS
CONVEYED TO THE SHAH.

-- SECRETARY VANCE VERY MUCH APPRECIATES THE INITIATIVE
TAKEN BY THE SHAH TO DISCUSS IN STRAIGHTFORWARD TERMS THE
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REPROCESSING ISSUE WITH BHUTTO DURING THE LATTER'S RECENT
VISIT TO TEHRAN.

-- THE SHAH WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT IN SUGGESTING THAT
THERE WERE TECHNICAL WAYS TO ACHIEVE ECONOMICAL NUCLEAR
POWER WITHOUT PROCESSES WHICH PRODUCE WEAPONS GRADE PLU-
TONIUM.

-- THE SECRETARY WANTS THE SHAH TO KNOW THAT WE ARE INSTRUCTING AMBASSADOR HUMMEL TO APPROACH GENERAL ZIA TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE U.S. IS INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING CORDIAL RELATIONS

WITH PAKISTAN, THAT WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH ONGOING MILITARY SALES AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BUT THAT WE FACE AN ACUTE PROBLEM IF REPROCESSING TRANSFERS CONTINUE. (AMBASSADOR MAY INFORM THE SHAH OF THE LINE HUMMEL WILL TAKE AS REFLECTED IN PARAGRAPH THREE OF ISLAMABAD 6942.)

-- IN PURSUIT OF WHAT WE KNOW IS A COMMON OBJECTIVE, THE SECRETARY WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE HAVING THE SHAH CONSIDER REITERATING, AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME, TO GENERAL ZIA THE SAME POINTS THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE WITH BHUTTO ON NUCLEAR MATTERS, NOTING, TOO, THAT BHUTTO HIMSELF HAD INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXAMINE ALTERNATIVES AND NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITIES FOR A MORE FLEXIBLE APPROACH AT A LATER STAGE IF HE RETAINED CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT.

-- ANY FURTHER INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE SHAH ON THIS MATTER WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL SINCE THE SECRETARY IS KEENLY AWARE OF THE RESPECT WITH WHICH THE SHAH AND IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ARE HELD IN ISLAMABAD.

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3. IN CONNECTION WITH THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY ALAM, AS REPORTED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF TEHRAN 5872, YOU MAY PASS ON TO HIM THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

A. A TEAM OF U.S. AND JAPANESE TECHNICAL EXPERTS IS CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE TECHNICAL MODES OF OPERATING THE TOKAI-MURA PLANT WHICH WOULD AVOID THE SEPARATION OF PURE PLUTONIUM. THE RESULTS OF THIS TECHNICAL INVESTIGATION WILL BE REPORTED TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO SEE IF ANY ALTERNATIVES EXIST WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT A TECHNICAL SOLUTION WHICH MIGHT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR AN ADVANCED NUCLEAR PROGRAM LIKE JAPAN'S WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE JUSTIFIED IN EMBRYONIC PROGRAMS SUCH AS THAT IN PAKISTAN.

B. AS THE IRANIANS MAY BE AWARE, THE FRG APPROVED EXPORT LICENSES FOR TRANSFERS OF AN INITIAL PACKAGE OF REPROCESSING AND ENRICHMENT TECHNOLOGY TO BRAZIL IN MAY. WHILE THE TECHNOLOGY SO FAR TRANSFERRED IS IN ITSELF RELATIVELY INOCUOUS, WE ARE OPPOSED TO THESE INITIAL TRANSFERS BECAUSE OF THEIR SYMBOLIC AND PRECEDENTIAL IMPORTANCE.

U.S. HAS DELIBERATELY AVOIDED FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENTARY
SINCE MAY IN ORDER TO AVOID AN OPEN DISPUTE, WHILE MAKING
CLEAR TO BOTH THE FRG AND BRAZIL OUR CONTINUED CONCERN.
WE HOPE TO ENTER INTO CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH
PARTIES AGAIN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. VANCE

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